

HABS No. NJ-1164

Town of Roadstown
New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail
At Intersection of County Road
Nos. 626 and 620
Roadstown
Cumberland County
New Jersey

HABS
NJ
6-ROADST,
1-

PHOTOGRAPHS

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of Interior
Washington, D.C. 20013-7127

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

TOWN OF ROADSTOWN

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1-

Location: New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail, at intersection of County Road Nos. 626 and 620, Roadstown, Cumberland County, New Jersey.

Significance: Settled by the British in the early seventeenth century, Roadstown is home to the Ware family, a multi-generational lineage of well-known chairmakers, and contains many examples of vernacular patterned brick houses.

History: An early stop on the first stage lines between Greenwich and Camden, and Bridgeton and Salem, Roadstown was first called Kingstown; later it was known as Sayre's Cross Roads, after Ananias Sayre, a prominent citizen and county sheriff. Since the early nineteenth century it has been called Roadstown. Settled by the British in the early seventeenth century, Roadstown ranked in importance next to Greenwich, Fairton/New England Town, and Bridgeton/Cohansey's Bridge.

Today the town is noteworthy for two reasons. First, it was the home of the Wares, a multi-generational family of chairmakers whose ladderback, rush-bottom chairs are now highly valued among collectors. It is also an area rich in patterned brick houses with their construction dates and builder's initials in the gable. Included among these are the David Bowen House (1770), Ananias Sayre House (1770), and Daniel Bowen House (1775); just outside of town on Route 626 is the John Remington House (1728).

Sources: Cushing, Thomas and Sheppard, Charles W. History of Gloucester, Salem and Cumberland Counties. Philadelphia: Everts and Peck, 1883.

Love, Paul. "Patterned Brickwork in Southern New Jersey." Proceedings of the New Jersey Historical Society 74, July 1955: 182-208.

Sebold, Kimberly, and Sara Amy Leach. Historic Themes and Resources within the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail: Southern New Jersey and the Delaware Bay. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Interior, 1991.

Project Information:

This project was sponsored by the New Jersey Coastal Heritage Trail (NJCHT) of the National Park Service, Janet Wolf, director. The documentation was undertaken by the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS), Robert Kapsch, chief, under the direction of HABS historian Sara Amy Leach, project supervisor. Three historians completed the research during summer 1991: Field supervisor Sarah Allaback (Massachusetts Institute of Technology), Alfred Holden (University of Vermont), and Camille Gatz (North Carolina). David Ames (University of Delaware) made the large-format photographs. Historian, Elizabeth Harris May (George Washington University), edited the HABS reports.